

Mr. Harbo
Liaison

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

65-58451

121-57

Date: December 1, 1955

To: Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: MARTIN SUMMERFIELD

Reference is made to the letter from the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations concerning the subject named above, dated November 22, 1955, your file Op-921D/hws, Ser 033115P92. (C) (U)

This Bureau is not conducting an investigation of Summerfield at the present time and none is contemplated. This Bureau has no objection to an investigation of Summerfield conducted by the Office of Naval Intelligence. However, it would be appreciated if you advise this Bureau of any information which may be developed by such investigation which may be of interest.

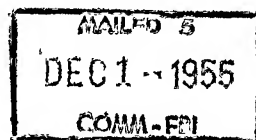
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~

Yellow; Subject not on SI. Extensive investigation has previously been conducted under the Internal Security - R and Fraud Against the Government captions and also for the AEC, the results of which have previously been furnished to the interested agencies. Although information was developed indicating that Summerfield attended meetings of a CP unit in California during the early 1940's, there is no indication that subject had executed any statements which could be used as a basis for successful prosecution in regard to the FAG Statutes.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO
Op-921D/hws
Ser 033115P92

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22 NOV 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Attn: Liaison Section

Subj: SUPERFIELD, Martin, dob 20 October 1916, New York, New York
-Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

1. Enclosed herewith is copy of letter from the District Intelligence Officer, FOURTH Naval District to Director of Naval Intelligence of 26 October 1955 with attachments thereto. Subject is being considered for work on classified military projects.

2. It is requested that the Office of Naval Intelligence be advised as to whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation will undertake investigation in this case.

J. C. Johnson
J. C. JOHNSON
Commander, USNR

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MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION CONCERNING MARTIN J. SUMMERFIELD

1. A ~~confidential~~ letter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C. dated 6 September 1949, reported that David Altman of 129 North Oxford Street, Los Angeles, had given the subject's name as a reference in an application with the Socony Vacuum Oil Company of New York City. This letter further states that Altman, reportedly the former head of the Chemistry Section of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, was released for security reasons.
2. A ~~confidential~~ report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles dated 11 October 1949, reported that, when interviewed by FBI agents, the subject denied any interest in what he described as "organizational communism" while a graduate student at California Institute of Technology, and denied ever being a member of the Communist Party or ever having attended a Communist Party meeting. He also stated that he has never associated with anyone whom he knew to be a member of the Communist Party. During the interview the subject stated that while at California Institute of Technology, he was closely associated with Frank J. Malina and friendly with Sidney Weinbaum, but did not know of Communist connections of either of these individuals. The subject admitted knowing quite intimately all persons mentioned by a confidential informant as being members of the Pasadena Professional Section of the Communist Party, but denied that he had knowledge of any Communist Party affiliation on the part of any of them.
3. This report states that Gustav A. Albrecht and Sylvan Rubin, two former members of the Pasadena Professional Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party were interviewed by FBI agents. Albrecht stated that he did not know for sure who was or was not a member of the unit, but that in view of the subject's presence at so many of the meetings of this group and his active participation in the discussion which took place at these meetings, he could not but be aware that the discussions involved comment with regard to the "Communist Party line". He said that the discussion leader or organizer of these meetings was Sidney Weinbaum. Rubin stated that, in his opinion, based on the amount of attendance at these meetings, together with his participation therein, that the subject was doubtless a member of this group.
4. A ~~confidential~~ report of the Army Counter Intelligence Corps dated 27 May 1949, sets out an FBI report dated 16 May 1949 concerning the subject. This FBI report stated that the subject was considered by associates and friends to be "quite liberal" in his political views, and that although no known membership of the subject in the Communist Party was developed, that he was found to be a very close associate of Frank J. Malina, a member of the Pasadena Professional Section of the Los Angeles Communist Party. According to an FBI ~~confidential~~ informant, during the period 1939 to 1941 Communist Party meetings were held at the home of Malina and the subject. All the persons attending these meetings were found to be members of the Los Angeles Communist Party, with the exception of the subject. This report also states that in 1939 the subject was a subscriber to the "People's World". The "People's World" is the West Coast organ of the Communist Party. The report sets out that on 6 April 1949 the subject and his wife received mail from Mr. and Mrs. A. Berman, postmarked Pasadena, California and that this may be Averill Berman, well known Communist Party member and radio commentator of Los Angeles who has been active for many years in that area assisting in sponsoring many Communist front activities.

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DATE 11/15/01 BY SP3BJ/JG

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ENCLOSURE

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5. By a letter dated 10 February 1950, Headquarters, First Army, Governors Island, New York, notified Princeton University that consent was granted for employment on or access to secret contracts and information of the Department of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force in the case of the subject.

6. A ~~confidential~~ report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles dated 2 May 1950, reported that Richard Albert Rosanoff, when interviewed by FBI agents, admitted that he had been a member of Professional Unit #122 of the Communist Party in Pasadena, California during 1938 and 1939, and that Sidney Weinbaum was leader of this unit, and recruited him into the Communist Party in 1938. Rosanoff stated that the subject was in attendance at many meetings of this Professional Unit of the Party during the years 1938-1939 and therefore unquestionably knew of the Communist character of these meetings. [redacted]

[redacted] was interviewed by FBI agents and stated that he is positive that the subject definitely knew of the existence of a Communist group on the Cal Tech campus and likewise that Sidney Weinbaum and Frank Malina definitely expressed pro-Communist beliefs.

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7. A ~~confidential~~ letter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Newark, N. J. dated 13 April 1951, reported that the subject continues his association through correspondence with Malina, who is (at the time of the letter) in Paris, and that the subject also received considerable correspondence from the recently organized Society for Social Responsibility in Science. The letter stated that according to tentative constitution of this organization the stated purposes were to induce scientists to abstain from doing any research or production which might ultimately result in the development of any destructive force or weapon, and to encourage a friendly exchange of data between scientists of all countries.

8. By a letter dated 7 September 1951 the subject was notified that the Army-Navy-Air Force Personnel Security Board had tentatively revoked his Secret clearance and decided that consent for his employment on classified Army, Navy or Air Force contracts must be denied. Revocation was made final and affirmed by an appeal board.

9. A ~~confidential~~ letter from the Director of Naval Intelligence dated 24 June 1953, includes a letter from the subject to Mr. Dan A. Kimball, President, Aerojet-General Corporation, Cincinnati, Ohio. In this letter the subject said: "I did participate in a more or less sporadic manner during" 1937 to 1940 or 1939 "in a student group that formed about 1937 to discuss economic, political, artistic, and musical topics. The group was decidedly un-orthodox in its average leanings. I myself held 'leftist views' at the time. About a year after it formed, Communist influence penetrated the group, and some individuals joined the C.P. Just which one, I can't be sure. I would have to guess, but I prefer not to do any finger-pointing as a basis for getting myself cleared. The group continued to drift along in this mixed fashion, meeting at intervals to discuss topics of interest, as it had done all along. New members joined from time to time, others dropped out. I dropped out about 1940. There were no formalities about it, no initiation ritual and no resignation ritual. I think the group disbanded completely about that year".

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